



**HOPE.
INSPIRE.
LOVE.™**

SPOT THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

16

KEY INDICATORS

+

**WHAT YOU CAN
DO IF YOU SPOT IT**



LOOK FOR **16** KEY INDICATORS

Recognizing potential red flags and knowing the key indicators of human trafficking and sexual exploitation is an essential step in identifying more victims and helping them find the assistance they need.

HAS THE PERSON EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 IS UNPAID OR PAID VERY LITTLE | 7 ABUSIVE OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE | 13 DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ADDICTION |
| 2 SECRETIVE FRIENDSHIPS | 8 COERSION, INTIMIDATION & THREATS | 14 LIMITED FAMILY OR SOCIAL CONTACT WITH OTHERS |
| 3 NOT FREE TO COME AND GO | 9 OWES LARGE DEBT & UNABLE TO PAY | 15 OFTEN GOES MISSING FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME OR SKIPS SCHOOL |
| 4 WORKS EXCESSIVE LONG HOURS | 10 LOSS OF CONTROL OF ID DOCUMENTS | 16 HUMILIATING WORKING OR LIVING CONDITIONS |
| 5 LIED, COERSED OR DECEIVED | 11 ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR OR FEAR | |
| 6 RELATIONSHIPS WITH SIGNIFICANTLY OLDER PEOPLE | 12 ENTERING OR LEAVING VEHICLES WITH UNKNOWN ADULTS | |

If you are working with children or young teens, pay attention, especially to sudden changes of behavior—particularly withdrawal, fearfulness, isolation, anger, anxiety, and depression.

Look for the presence of an older girlfriend or boyfriend. A sudden appearance of expensive possessions that feel out of place (watches, jewelry, clothing, shoes, phones, or nails done).



It is imperative that you try to get to know their story, not just the signs. Without knowing the story, “signs” of human trafficking can lead to judgments formulated from unconscious bias or harmful stereotypes. They can also lead to situations where a person in a trafficking situation is actually put in a dangerous position by a well-meaning stranger.

A TRAFFICKED VICTIM COULD SHOW ONE OR MORE OF THESE RED FLAGS:

This list of red flags is not exhaustive and represents some of the most common signs of suspected human trafficking victims. These red flags could also not be present in all trafficking cases, and only some of these indicators may be noticeable.

- Avoids eye contact.
- Is sometimes accompanied by someone who is controlling their actions or words and lacks control of their interactions.
- Someone may speak on their behalf and defer answers to another person.
- Are frightened to talk to authorities or strangers, and they are closely monitored and controlled.
- Is not in control of their own money, identification documents, or other forms of ID.
- Has inconsistencies in their story of where they are from or where they are staying. They don't know their address and have a lack of knowledge of their current whereabouts.
- They are transported to or from work and sometimes live and work at the same place.
- They might have poor mental health or abnormal behavior.
- Looks sluggish as if in a constant high or under the influence of substances such as drugs or alcohol.
- They may have signs of abuse or poor physical health. Appears malnourished, hungry, lack sleep, or shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse and torture.
- They are fearful, depressed, nervous, and have anxious behavior.
- They may have scars or bruises on their arms and lower backs.
- They are suspicious and distrustful of people who offer them help or assistance.
- Works excessively long or unusual hours.
- The places where they live or work have high measures of security: opaque windows, boarded-up windows, bars on windows, and security cameras.
- Victims may demonstrate affection towards the abuser, becoming sympathetic to their captors through possible “Stockholm” syndrome.
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off.
- Was recruited through false promises of work.

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, PLEASE CONTACT THE NATIONAL HOTLINE AND LET THEM KNOW AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE. YOU MAY BE SAVING SOMEONE'S LIFE.

TO REQUEST HELP OR REPORT A CONCERN, CALL THE U.S. NATIONAL HOTLINE 888.373.7888 OR TEXT “BEFREE” TO 233733

IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE A REASON TO BELIEVE A PERSON IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 911 FIRST

For additional information, visit HopelnspireLove.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.

There are an estimated 400,000 victims of Human Trafficking in the United States today.

Sex Trafficking is what most people are familiar with. This takes place when one person is sold for sexual services, and someone else benefits in some way. It also takes place anytime a minor under the age of 18 is involved in commercial sex.

Sex Trafficking can affect any American community, especially teen runaways, LGBTQI+ youth, children without strong support systems, homeless women and men, those struggling with addictions or mental health, undocumented workers, and young people in the foster care system.

Traffickers target those who are vulnerable and in need. This can be anything from a physical need, such as money or food, to an emotional need, such as love or attention.

4 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT SEX TRAFFICKING

- 1 Many people caught in sex trafficking personally know their traffickers. Sadly, abusers are often family members or friends.

Because of movies, we often assume that trafficking involves a dramatic kidnapping by a stranger, but that's actually very rare.
- 2 Lots of sex trafficking starts online. There is an increase in digital exploitation, and shows up in sexting, chat rooms, on the darknet, and on social media, where victims are groomed.
- 3 Most individuals caught in sex trafficking don't realize they are victims of a crime. Many are in a highly manipulative relationship with their trafficker. In some cases, the victim will not run away and will actually protect the trafficker from arrest or punishment.
- 4 Teens in the foster care system are especially high-risk. Half of all foster children will end up homeless within two years of aging out of the foster care system.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

ONE in **SEVEN** runaway teens will become victims of sexual exploitation.

88% of those who ran were in the foster care system. Teens in the foster care system and runaway kids are perhaps the most vulnerable population in the U.S. today.

**SCAN CODE TO
LEARN MORE,
DONATE, REPORT
A CONCERN, OR
DOWNLOAD FREE
RESOURCES.**

Help us continue to empower survivors of sex trafficking to flourish & thrive. Give today!



**Sex trafficking is the business
of stealing freedom for the
purpose of profit.**



~~she's someone's sister/mother/daughter/wife~~

1.2 MILLION CHILDREN ARE EXPLOITED INTO THE SEX TRADE EACH YEAR

60% OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

10K

IN 2021, 10,360 CASES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE U.S. ALONE (16,710 VICTIMS INVOLVED)

150.2 BILLION ESTIMATED \$ HUMAN TRAFFICKING GENERATES PER YEAR

Millions of invisible children are living on the streets.

98% OF TRAFFICKERS ARE NEVER CONVICTED

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Data by Polaris Project, Shared Hope International, A21, International Labour Organization, U.S. Department of State, Walk Free Foundation, and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

14-16 COMMON AGES A VICTIM ENTERS TRAFFICKING

The Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children both recognize that **pornography** is an element that adds to the serious problem of **sex trafficking**.

OF CHILDREN, **ONE THIRD** OF VICTIMS ARE MALE

71 PERCENT OF TRAFFICKED ARE WOMEN AND 25% ARE CHILDREN



ANOTHER PERSON IS TRAFFICKED

- ✓ Sex trafficking is violence.
- ✓ It's physical, verbal, emotional & sexual abuse.
- ✓ It's forced prostitution.
- ✓ It's barbaric working conditions.

300,000 CHILDREN ARE AT RISK OF TRAFFICKING EACH YEAR

76% OF TRANSACTIONS FOR SEX TRAFFICKING WITH UNDERAGE GIRLS, START ON THE INTERNET.

The average age of entry into the commercial sex trade in the United States is approximately **12-14 years for girls and 11-13 years for boys.**

15th THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA REPORTED 192 HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES AND HAD 315 VICTIMS IN 2021, AND WAS STATE #15 WITH THE MOST CASES IN THE NATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS **2ND** LARGEST AND FASTEST GROWING CRIMINAL INDUSTRY

99% OF VICTIMS ARE NEVER RESCUED ~~he's someone's brother/father/son/husband~~

TOGETHER, WE WILL CHANGE THESE STATISTICS. PARTNER WITH US TODAY. HOPEINSPIRELOVE.ORG